



Communications

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## **For Immediate Release**

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# **Lake County Department of Public Works Wins Statewide Award**

LAKE COUNTY, IL – The Lake County Department of Public Works' Des Plaines River Water Reclamation Facility was recently awarded "Best Operated Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year" in the State of Illinois. Only five facilities were nominated from a group of similar facilities statewide in the Group 1 category, which is for facilities that treat more than 1.0 million gallons of wastewater daily.

The award is presented in each of five categories, with categories being separated according to facility size and treatment process type.

Officials from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency nominated the Des Plaines River Water Reclamation Facility for the award.



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## **Department of Public Works Wins Statewide Award – 2 of 2**

The purpose of the award is to emphasize the relationship between adequate wastewater treatment and clean receiving water and to give public recognition and encouragement to communities, their officials and the personnel who have operated their wastewater facilities in an especially effective manner.

The Des Plaines River Facility is located in unincorporated Vernon Township, serving approximately 100,000 Lake County residents. Communities served by this facility include Buffalo Grove, Kildeer, Lake Zurich, Lincolnshire, Long Grove, Riverwoods and several unincorporated subdivisions.

The facility is sized to treat 16 million gallons of wastewater daily, or nearly 4 million toilet flushes, and incorporates tertiary processes, which produce high-quality treated water. Prior to discharge into Aptakisic Creek, the plant routinely removes up to 98 percent of the water pollutants.

The winner of Plant of the Year was announced on April 24, 2002, at the Awards Banquet during the regular program of the Illinois Association of Water Control Operators Conference in Springfield.

Members of the Des Plaines River Water Reclamation Facility operations staff are Jim Zachary, Larry Hazard, Glenn Schiazza, Steve Herr, Dan Colwell, Paul Smith, Jim Wilson, John Van Hoogen, Larry Edwards, and David Rath.